

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Number: 7,433,317  
Issued: October 7, 2008  
Name of Patentee: Hirokazu Kobayashi et al.  
Title of Invention: NETWORK CONNECTION APPARATUS AND NETWORK CONNECTION SWITCHING METHOD

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF PATENT  
FOR PTO MISTAKE (37 C.F.R. § 1.322(a))**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: Decision and Certificate of Correction  
Branch of the Patent Issue Division

1. Attached is Form PTO/SB/44 being suitable for printing.
2. Correction of the Official Letters Patent is respectfully requested in view of the following text which appears correctly in the application file:

In claim 10 of the Letters Patent at Column 21, line 35, "comparing sections," should read -- comparing section, -- as indicated in the Amendment filed March 12, 2008.

In claim 10 of the Letters Patent at Column 21, lines 37-38, "advertisement messages," should read -- advertisement message, -- as indicated in the Amendment filed March 12, 2008.

3. Please send the Certificate to:

Name: Lawrence E. Ashery  
P.O. Box 980  
Valley Forge, PA 19482  
(610) 407-0700

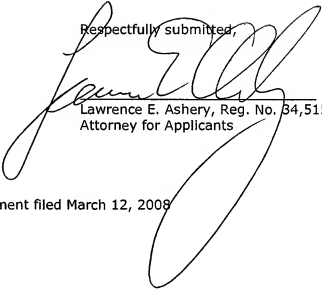
Name of Assignee: Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.

Assignment Recorded on: March 3, 2005

Reel: 017053

Frame: 0728

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515  
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/so

Enclosure: Form PTO/SB/44  
Copy of Page 3 of Amendment filed March 12, 2008

Dated: January 8, 2009

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SO\_363906

2. (Currently Amended) A network connection apparatus for operating a plurality of network connection apparatuses connected to a local area network virtually as one network connection apparatus, the network connection apparatus comprising:

a state monitor section for managing an operating state as ~~a network~~ the network connection apparatus;

a message processing section for performing an exchange process of an advertisement message representative of the operating state during operation as a ~~network~~ the network connection apparatus;

an advertisement timer for counting for a timing to send ~~the advertisement~~ an advertisement message at a regular interval;

a message timer section for counting a time to decide whether the advertisement message is received in a predetermined time from the network connection apparatus operating as ~~a network~~ the network connection apparatus; and

a priority comparing section for acquiring priority information representative of a priority to operate as ~~a network~~ the network connection apparatus from the advertisement message received, and comparing same with priority information possessed; and

a master transition timer section for counting ~~for a timing~~ a timing of transition of from a standby state into ~~an operating~~ the operating state as a ~~network~~ the network connection apparatus;

whereby, when the state monitor section decides that the network connection apparatus is not in an operating ~~the operating~~ state, the priority comparing section, in a case of the decision that the priority possessed is higher than the priority information in the received advertisement message, compares between a remaining time of the message timer section and a skew time calculated based on the priority possessed, to set the skew time to the master transition timer section when the skew time is shorter, so that, when the master transition timer section goes into a time-up, the state monitor section instructs the message processing section to send an

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO: 7,433,317  
APPLICATION NO.: 10/526,210  
ISSUE DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2008  
INVENTOR(S): HIROKAZU KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In claim 10 of the Letters Patent at Column 21, line 35, "comparing sections," should read -- comparing section, --

In claim 10 of the Letters Patent at Column 21, lines 37-38, "advertisement messages," should read -- advertisement message,--

**Mailing Address of Sender:**

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S. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323 and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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